

REMARKS

Claim 1 is amended to limit the oligomers to pentamers and to incorporate the limits of cancelled claims 6 and 7. A marked-up version of claim 1 is attached to this paper as an appendix.

Claims 1-7, 11, 12, and 33 were rejected under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter not described in the specification. Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection in view of the amendment to claim 1 which now covers only pentamers of units containing an oligomerization domain, a spacer and a binding domain.

Claims 1-7, 11, 12 and 33 were rejected under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, as not being fully enabled by the specification. Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection in view of the amendment to claim 1. Applicants further point out that claim 11 limits the pentamerization domain to the COMP domain.

Claims 1-7, 11, 12 and 33 were rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is requested in view of the following discussion.

Applicants have replaced "peptidic" with --polypeptide--. Applicants submit that "polypeptide" is definite to the skilled artisan.

With regard to the discussion of claim 11, the core COMP domain has been described in the literature (see, for example, Kajava (1996) cited at page 11 of the specification) as having 46 residues and it can be up to 60 residues with additional flanking regions from both sides. Therefore, Applicants submit that the COMP domain specified in claim 11 has a definite meaning to one of skill in the art.

In view of the discussion above, Applicants request withdrawal of the rejection under 35 USC 112, second paragraph.

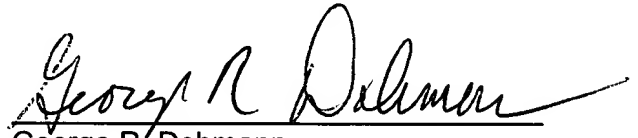
There were also two art rejections under 35 USC 102(b): claims 1-6, 11 and 12 over Efimov et al. and claims 1-5, 11 and 12 over Morgelin et al. Applicants point out that claim 7 was not

included in either rejection. Since the limits of claim 7 are now incorporated into the only independent claim under consideration, Applicants submit that both art rejections are overcome. Therefore, withdrawal of both of the rejections under 35 USC 102(b) is requested.

Entry of this amendment and reconsideration and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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